



# Gameness: The Invisible Element in a Champion

By Tyree McCrackin

In times past, conditions that North American's faced, particularly in the South and the West, were much harsher than they are today. The leisure pursuits and recreation of the people reflected this. The practice of matching

dogs in a ring or pit, as deplorable as it is to today's sensibilities, was fairly common in many areas of the United States. The harsh conditions of farms, ranches, and the fighting pit gave rise to the most American of dogs; the American Pit Bull Terrier, at times

called alternately the American Bull Terrier, the Yankee Terrier, or simply the Bulldog. The pit contests were not to the death, as is commonly assumed, but were to determine the gameness of a dog. Gameness is defined as the quality of being, a) plucky;